

Coast to Coast

This will involve creating a living landscape/wildlife network to link the two coasts of Cornwall, from Padstow through the Camel valley, into the Fowey valley and then splitting to take in both Fowey and the Looe valley. The lower Fowey valley section of the project area is currently being worked up as a project, see detail below. Other project areas will need to be identified during the course of this plan.

Lower Fowey Valley

The lower Fowey River valley system features a network of historic parklands, ancient woodlands, wood pasture, and veteran trees in the wider landscape. A number of sites within this network are known to be of international or national importance for their epiphytic lichen flora and, at very least, of regional importance for their saproxylic (dead wood) invertebrates. However, data on the invertebrate interest of the site network remains limited, and information on the status and distribution of lichens outside of the Lanhydrock and Boconnoc Estates needs updating. Without better baseline information the biodiversity interests of the sites are unlikely to be fully accounted for in management plans at both a site and landscape scale.

Funding is currently being sought to:

- Conduct new surveys for saproxylic invertebrates and epiphytic lichens, and reassess the significance of assemblages of these groups at a regional and national scale.
- assess habitat quality and connectivity
- assess the role of the site network in conserving the deadwood and veteran tree biodiversity at a landscape scale
- produce site management guidance and a landscape-scale conservation strategy which will contribute to delivery of targets for UKBAP priority species and habitats

- Communicate with stakeholders and raise the profile of the habitat and its biodiversity to the public.

The lead organisations for the lower Fowey Valley project are Buglife and the National Trust. Other project areas should be lead by Natural England and Cornwall Wildlife Trust with the Highways Agency, local Voluntary Marine Conservation Zones (VMCAs) and Westcountry Rivers Trust identified as potential partners.

Key BAP habitats:

- Wood-Pasture and Parkland
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Wet Woodland
- Hedgerows

Key BAP species:

Invertebrates: A large number of deadwood invertebrates will benefit, many of which are rare or scarce (14NS, 2 RDB known) however are not recognised as BAP priority species.

- Carabus intricatus (Blue ground beetle)
- Lichens: 7 UK BAP Priority species have been recorded from within the NT's Landhydrock Estate:
 - Arthonia invadens
 - Bacidia incompta
 - Lecania chlorotiza
 - Melaspilea lentigosa
 - Porina hibernica
 - Usnea articulate
 - Usnea florida

Mammals: although not a focus of the project many species of bats will benefit:



Blue ground beetle. Photo by John Walters